

A Dilation & Curettage (D&C) is performed to collect the tissue (endometrium) from inside the uterus. Dilatation ("D") is the manual widening of the cervix to allow instruments into the uterus. Curettage ("C") is the collection of the contents of the uterus using an instrument called curettage. The tissue is sent to pathology for further analysis. The procedure may be performed in the hospital using general anesthesia or in the office using local anesthesia.

Why is it done:

- A D&C is performed to diagnose conditions by obtaining a sample of the endometrium (uterine lining) for patients with infertility, abnormal or irregular bleeding or postmenopausal bleeding.
- A D&C also may be done to treat irregular or heavy bleeding or remove endometrial (uterine) polyps (benign growths).
- A D&C may be used to remove any remaining fetal tissue after a miscarriage or remove placental tissue after delivery for retained placenta to prevent infection and heavy bleeding.

What can I expect if I have the procedure:

- When done in the office, your physician will numb your cervix with local anesthesia. Once anesthetized, the cervix will be dilated and the endometrial tissue will be removed. This can be done with an instrument or a suction device. The procedure usually takes 5-10 minutes after you have received the local anesthesia. Mild to moderate cramping is expected, but improves once the procedure is completed.
 - You should not use tampons, vaginal medications, douche, or have sexual intercourse for 48 hours prior to the procedure.
 - It is best to have this procedure done immediately following your menstrual period. However, if you are spotting, the procedure can still be done.
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